

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 122854
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 AID-05 MCE-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /103 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DFIGGINS;DA
APPROVED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL
ACDA:LWATSON
ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS
ARA:GLISTER
ARA/RPP:CFINAN
PM/SAS:RTITUS
ARA/PPC:LREINAUDI
PM/SPP:PPERENYL

-----105204 151557Z /43

P R 151519Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 122854

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SNAR, MASS, MORG, XK, HO

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON ARMS RESTRAINT AND RESPECT FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) 77 STATE 311063 (B) STATE 36411

-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 122854

1. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES SIGNIFICANT OBJECTION, AMB IS
REQUESTED TO SEEK APPOINTMENT AT CONVENIENT TIME IN NEAR
FUTURE WITH CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES, GENERAL POLICARPO PAZ
OR CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL MELGAR (AS APPROPRIATE) TO
EXPRESS U. S. VIEWS ON TWO SUBJECTS: (1) ARMSRESTRAINT,
PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR AND
(2) POLICE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF

RECENT STATEMENTS BY LT. JUAN ANGEL BARAHONA. END SUMMARY.

2. AT ITS DISCRETION, AS OCCASION MAY BEST PRESENT ITSELF, EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR MAY MAKE SIMILAR POINTS REGARDING ARMS RESTRAINT.

3. AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING ORAL POINTS, ELABORATING AND ALLOWING GOH RESPONSE AS APPROPRIATE.

A. THE DEMARCHE ON TWO SEPARATE SUBJECTS, ARMS RESTRAINT AND POLICE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, IS MADE ON INSTRUCTION FROM STATE DEPARTMENT.

B. -- ON SUBJECT OF ARMS RESTRAINT, GOH IS AWARE THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS CONCERNED THAT SPREAD OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS, PARTICULARLY HIGH PERFORMANCE WEAPONS SYSTEMS, COULD THREATEN STABILITY IN ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING CENTRAL AMERICA.

-- THIS U. S. POLICY IS BASED BOTH ON CONCERN FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND ALSO CONCERN THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS DIVERTED TO PURCHASE OF SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF NEW ARMS (AS DISTINCT FROM REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLESCENT ARMS) WOULD DIVERT NEEDED FUNDS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. SUCH PURCHASES WOULD INEVITABLY BE CONSIDERED IN EVALUATING NEW BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLES OF ALL NATIONS. -- IN THE SPECIFIC CASE OF HONDURAS A THIRD GOAL IS PRESENT IN ADDITION TO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT, NAMELY, NORMALIZING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 122854

OF RELATIONS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR.

-- CHIEF OF STATE OR CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES WILL RECALL EMPHASIS BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN BILATERAL INTERVIEW AT TIME OF PANAMA CANAL TREATY SIGNING (NOVEMBER 1977) ON U. S. SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND NORMALIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO NEIGHBORS (FOLLOWED BY EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH SAME EMPHASIS.)

-- U. S. STRONGLY HOPES THAT THE MOMENTUM ESTABLISHED AT FEBRUARY 1978 MEETING BY CHIEFS OF STATE AT EL POY FOR A FULL SETTLEMENT WITH EL SALVADOR INCLUDING BOTH DEMARCATION OF THE BORDER AND REMOVAL OF IMPEDIMENTS TO TRANSPORT AND TRADE, ALONG WITH RESTRUCTURING THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET, CAN BE MAINTAINED.

-- U. S. IS CONCERNED ABOUT NEGATIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON EITHER PARTY OF SUBSTANTIAL NEW ARMS ACQUISITIONS BY EITHER SIDE, AND HOPES THAT PLANS WHICH EITHER SIDE MIGHT HAVE FOR SUBSTANTIAL NEW ARMS ACQUISITIONS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED OR RECONSIDERED IN THAT LIGHT. POSSIBLE DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION PRESSURES AGAINST AGREEMENT COULD BE STIMULATED BY NEWS OF NEW ARMS ACQUISITIONS BY THE OTHER COUNTRY SUCH AS PURCHASE OF ANY ADDITIONAL SUPER MYSTERE OR COMPARABLE AIRCRAFT BY HONDURAS.

C. ON SUBJECT OF POLICE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, U. S. HAS BEEN GRATIFIED BY HONDURAN CONDITIONS REFLECTED IN REQUIRED ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT TO U. S. CONGRESS BY STATEMENT "NO REPORTS OF TORTURE HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN RECENT YEARS." IN LIGHT OF THIS RECORD WHERE ABUSES OF PRISONERS HAVE NOT BEEN CONDONED BY GOH AND WHERE ANY MISTREATMENT WHICH MAY HAVE OCCURRED HAS BEEN AT LOW LEVELS AND A RESULT OF PERSONAL EXCESS, WE ARE CONCERNED AT LT. BARAHORA'S ADMISSIONS TO THE PRESS THAT HE TORTURED A PRISONER AND HIS IMPLICATION THAT SUCH TORTURE IS NOT AN UNUSUAL PRACTICE.

-- USG RECOGNIZES THIS CLAIMED INCIDENT OCCURRED IN CONTEXT OF REPREHENSIBLE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 122854

-- USG APPLAUDS RESPONSIBLE GOH ACTIONS TO STOP NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND TO ROOT OUT ANY GOH OFFICIALS WHO MAY BE INVOLVED.
-- WE APPRECIATE THE NAMING OF THE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION HEADED BY COL. SERRA HERNANDEZ AND WISH IT SUCCESS.
-- WE RECOGNIZE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT GOH SEEKS MAINTAIN INTEGRITY OF GOVERNMENT, E.G., LT. BARAHORA HAS BEEN RELIEVED OF HIS DUTIES; FUSEP IS UNDERGOING REORGANIZATION; AND THROUGHOUT FERRARI KIDNAPPING/NARCOTICS SCANDLE FREE PRESS HAS BEEN MAINTAINED AND RESPECTED.
-- WE HOPE TOGETHER WITH THE GOH FOR A CLEAN AND RAPID OUTCOME HOWEVER PAINFUL THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN OR MAY BE.
-- WE HOPE THE OUTCOME WILL INCLUDE CLARITY OF THE GOVERNMENT POLICY AGAINST CRUEL TREATMENT OR TORTURE OF PRISONERS.
(IF EMBASSY BELIEVES DEMARCHE BEST MADE TO MELGAR BUT CONSIDERS PRESENCE OF CHIEF OF HONDURAN ARMED FORCES, GENERAL PAZ, AT DEMARCH WOULD BE USEFUL BECAUSE OF HIS MORE INTIMATE ACQUAINTANCE WITH GOH ACTIONS ON BOTH SUBJECTS, THEN EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO INFORM GENERAL MELGAR OF THE SUBJECTS OF CONVERSATION WHEN REQUESTING APPOINTMENT AND TO INVITE GENERAL PAZ' ATTENDANCE.) VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, HUMAN RIGHTS, ARMS TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE122854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DFIGGINS:DA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780205-0445
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780558/aaaabxai.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4b6cc19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 311063, 78 STATE 36411
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2687931
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMARCHE ON ARMS RESTRAINT AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: SHUM, SNAR, MASS, MORG, XK, HO
To: TEGUCIGALPA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4b6cc19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014